

**2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
HELD FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

Select Board Chair – Grant Spates opened the meeting by stating that a temporary moderator would have to be elected to take the place of Richard Nelson who is unable to attend the meeting. Karen Chitambar made a motion to elect Frank Davis for Town Moderator; Jeannie Alexander seconded the motion. Nikole Brainard also stated that we will need a School moderator. Alison Patenaude then made a motion to elect Frank Davis to be the School Moderator, seconded by Stacey Urbin all were in favor. Faye Morin then gave Frank Davis the oath. Grant Spates then thanked Scott Boskind for his years serving on the School Board. Frank Davis then introduced himself and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Frank then thanked Richard Nelson and Ken Young for their many years of being the Town & School Moderators; he then thanked all the Town & School Officials and the Town Road Crew for their services. Take a moment to offer prayers for our service men and women and for world peace. Frank then introduced Brian Smith – our State Representative and Brian said a few words and wished Frank luck for tomorrow’s election, he then spoke about what is going on in Montpelier –State Retirement, tax relief programs for low and moderately low income families, military retirees better pensions, transportation bill that provides funding for paving, pedestrian paths and bike paths throughout the State. Derby may become a single District this year. Frank then asked for the approval of the 2021 Town and School Meeting Minutes. Karen Jenne made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Karen Chitambar with no further discussion, minutes were approved.

Frank then read Articles as follows: Articles 1 – 8 will be voted on tomorrow by Australian Ballots

- Article 1.** To elect by the Australian Ballot System the following town and town school district officers for **one year**:
- (1) Town & School Moderator (1) Delinquent Tax Collector (1) First Constable
 - (1) Town School Board Director (1) Second Constable

To elect by the Australian Ballot System the following town and town school district officers for **two years**:

- (1) Select Board Member (1) Town School Board Director
- (1) Lister

To elect by the Australian Ballot System the following town and town school district officers for **three years**:

- (1) Lister (1) Town School Board Director
- (1) Select Board Member (1) Union School Board Director
- (1) Town Clerk & Treasurer (1) Derby Town School Treasurer

To elect by the Australian Ballot System the following town and town school district officers for **five years**:

- (1) Cemetery Commissioner

- Article 2.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby School District approve the School Board to expend **\$6,905,823.00**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$14,405.00** per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **5.02%** more than spending for the current year.

Nikole Brainard – School Board Chair recognized Stacey Urbin who was the School Principal for the last 8 years is now moving on and leaving the school, Rhonda Lucas the Assistant Principal is taking over for Stacey.

Nikole then went through a slide show presentation on the Schools Budget and the Highlights of the Budget and explained what Articles 2 – Article 6 were and what the funds would be used for, she also spoke about the Federal ESSER Funds - Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Release funds – COVID funds. A description to follow with the Articles below.

- Article 3.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of revenues for the purpose of paying current expenses? This Article is presented every year.

- Article 4.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby School District authorize the Board of School Directors to place the 2020-21 fund balance into three reserved funds: **\$189,867.75** into Building and

Grounds fund, **\$151,000.00** Technology fund, **\$23,000.00** Curriculum fund?

Nikole - Building & Grounds funds to replace carpets up-stairs, put an air conditioner in the Gym, Kitchen, and above, Swing sets, a new tractor and repair bathrooms. The Technology fund will be used to buy Chrome books, digital software, Teachers computers, maker space, and provide technology in classrooms, and smart boards. Curriculum funds will be used to get Literacy materials.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Derby School District authorize the Board of School Directors to establish and transfer **\$125,000.00** of unallocated, unaudited general fund balance to a Multi-Purpose Room Fund from the 2020-2021 school year?

Nikole - \$100,000 already reserved and \$25,000 for this year

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Derby School District authorize the Board of School Directors to establish and transfer **\$121,000.00** of unallocated, unaudited general fund balance to a School Support Personnel Fund from the 2020-2021 school year?

Nikole – The Personnel Funds will be used for an Intervention Teacher, Mental Health Clinician, full time PreK Class and Para Educators.

Karen Jenne asked what the balance was in these accounts presently, Nikole stated that there was \$135,417.52 in Building & Grounds funds, Technology \$6,429.60 and Equity Funds \$34,085.79.

Jim Hrdlicka – is a new Derby resident, questioned the Jr. High Budget which was not germane to the asking of the Elementary School board it should be the Jr. High and High School Board to answer his questions.

Article 7. Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of **\$ 846,615.50?**

Article 8. Shall the Town of Derby authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. §863? “Cannabis retailer” means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to sell cannabis and cannabis products to adults 21 years of age and older for off-site consumption.

Karen Jenne – Article 8 – Was this Article the request from a Town Resident or of the Select Board and if it passed would there be any benefit to the Town of Derby. Grant said it was requested that we put it on the ballot, but the Select Board felt it should be voted on by the Town. Bob Kelley – No final decisions have been made yet as for the amount the Town will receive if any. No further questions.

VOTING: The polls for voting on the above said **ARTICLES 1 thru 8** will be open at **8:00 A.M. and will close at 7:00 P.M. on TUESDAY, MARCH 1st, 2022 IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE DERBY MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 124 MAIN STREET, DERBY CENTER.** The polls shall be under the supervision of the Town of Derby Board of Civil Authority.

Article 9. Carol Brown made a motion for the Town of Derby to authorize the Select Board to purchase other land or real estate not to exceed a total purchase price of **\$20,000.00**. Joe Profera seconded the motion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 10. Nikole Brainard made a motion for the Town of Derby to authorize payment of property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before **Monday, October 17th, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.** Alison Patenaude seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 11. Bob Kelley made a motion for the Town of Derby to vote the sum of **\$200,000.00** for the rebuilding of roads in the Town of Derby, said monies to be raised by taxes. Fran Batchelder seconded the motion. Further discussion Scott Warthin asked what the plans were for the roads this year, Steve Gendreau said they will be working on Ridge Hill Dr top to bottom in house, several rebuilds, paving Derby Pond Rd and Pine Hill Rd. Bruce Penfield mentioned that in the minutes of the last Select Board meeting mentions paving Nelson Hill Rd, Steve said that will be next year. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

- Article 12.** Grant Spates made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$3,300.00** to assist the **Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging** in providing services to older Vermonters in the ensuing year. Karen Chitambar seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 13.** Nikole Brainard made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$12,000.00** to **Haskell Free Library & Opera House** to provide services to the residents of the Town. Ed Barber seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 14.** Ginette Provost made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum **\$40,000.00** to **Dailey Memorial Library** to provide services to residents of the Town. Scott Worthin seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 15.** Brian Smith made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$2,000.00** to **Orleans County Citizen Advocacy** for the purpose of creating and supporting relationships between community volunteers and individuals with developmental disabilities so that all are heard, empowered and fully included in the community, and to provide opportunities which enhance quality of life. Nikole Brainard seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 16.** Brad Shattuck made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate a sum not to exceed **\$15,000.00** to Town of Derby/ **Salem Lakes Preservation Association**, matching the Grant Funds from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, to continue monitoring and protecting the Lakes from Eurasian Water Milfoil and other Invasive Species. Steve Gendreau seconded the motion. Frank Davis stated that Andy Major dedicated his life to this program and that a write up is on the front cover of the Town Report this year. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 17.** Nikole Brainard made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** for the removal of **Eurasian Milfoil** from **Lake Derby (Derby Pond)**. Brad Shattuck seconded the motion. Discussion – Nancy Moore asked if they receive Grant funds for this organization, Karen Jenne said yes they apply every year but receive less and less every year and the cost of divers and cost of employees are more. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 18.** Fran Batchelder made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$13,600.00** to **Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice Inc.** for the services of Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Medical Social Work, Licensed Nurse Aide, Homemaker, Personal Care Attendant, Hospice, Maternal Child Health Programs, and other community health programs provided by the Agency. Elish Quirion seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 19.** Lisa Boskind made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$9,242.00** for the support of **Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.** a not for profit 501(c)(3), to support community members who cannot otherwise afford, care to improve their lives through confidential program services for emergency crisis, mental health, addiction, and/or developmental/intellectual challenges. Alison Patenaude seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 20.** Stacey Urbin made a motion for the Town of Derby to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of **\$6,150.00** for the support of **Umbrella** to provide services to residents of the Town. These services include support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and providing fresh local food through the Cornucopia Program to area seniors and disabled adults via the Meals on Wheels deliveries. Elizabeth Alexander seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 21.** Steve Gendreau made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$46,696.08** for the care and up keep of the **Cemeteries** in the Town of Derby, of which **\$13,800.00** shall come from cemetery revenues and **\$32,896.08** shall be raised by taxes. Maryann Tetreault seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 22.** Brian Smith made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$1,600.00** to **Orleans County Historical Society** to assist in maintaining the Old Stone House Museum and its educational programs, and direct the selectmen to assess a tax sufficient to meet the same.

Irene Dagesse seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 23. Judy Nommik made a motion for the Town of Derby to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$2,500.00** for the support of **Rural Community Transportation, Inc.** to provide services to residents of the Town of Derby. Betsy McDonald seconded the motion. Comments – Judy stated that there are over 50% more riders this year. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 24. Jeanne Alexander made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$2,000.00** to assist the **Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter** with its commitment to rescuing, providing care to and finding homes for unwanted pets. Emily Micknak seconded the motion. Tom Cyr had no problem supporting this article but wanted to know where these pets are coming from, if they are coming from States down south and would like to support the local Towns in our own State. Jeanne Alexander has adopted a couple pets from the organization and is very pleased with the shelter. Steve Gendreau states that Renee Falconer our Town Animal Control officer uses them as a pet drop off for our Town. There is a report in our Town report for this Article. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 25. Judy Nommik made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate **\$1,500.00** to **Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc. (NEKLS)** to provide services to residents of the Town. Peter Alexander seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 26. Nikole Brainard made a motion for the Town of Derby to provide notice of annual town report availability to residents by publishing notice in the newspaper and on the town website at least 10 days before the annual meeting along with designated pick up locations for said report in lieu of mailing. Maryann Tetreault seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 27. Grant Spates made a motion for the Town of Derby authorize the Select Board to expend **\$3,141,034.59** which is the amount the Select Board deems necessary for the ensuing years’ budget; which does NOT include the above articles appropriations. Lisa Boskind seconded the motion.
Grant –Town’s Budget \$3,141,034.59 plus Appropriations total is \$351,788.08 for a total Town Budget of \$3,492,822.67. This Article is voted on without the Appropriations.
Jim Hrdlicka – what is the budget being spent on, Frank said the budget located on pages 7 to 11 in the Town Report. Karen Jenne asked what percentage of the Sheriff’s budget is spent on WalMart Store – Sheriff Jennifer Harlow said there is a report in the Town Report of all the calls. There is a serious problem with thefts and drug use, people are coming in with lists of items to steal in order to pay off their drug debts with the dealers, drugs are a huge problem right now. Grant stated that Walmart pays \$225,927.91 in property taxes, \$181,837.03 in School taxes and \$44,090.88 in Town municipal taxes.
No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Frank Davis then asked if there were any other business to discuss.
Karen questioned the Towns professional audit when it would be ready Faye said it should be done by next week or so they were reviewing the draft. Tom Cyr asked about the future and the 5 year plan, Bob said it is now an 8 year plan.

Brian Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NIKOLE BRAINARD
GIGI GOBEIL-JUDD
EMILY MICKNAK
ALISON PATENAUDE
LYNDSAY SYKES
(School Directors)

KAREN CHITAMBAR
STEPHEN GENDREAU
BRAD SHATTUCK
BRIAN SMITH
GRANT SPATES (CHAIR)
(Select Board)

Attest: FAYE C. MORIN
Town Clerk